



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE AGENTS SEIZE 197 KILOS OF COCAINE IN SAN JUAN

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents seized approximately 197 kilograms of cocaine Thursday near Puerto Nuevo in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The seizure resulted out of a routine traffic stop that was made by officers assigned to the Puerto Rico Police Department (PRPD). The officers stopped to help what appeared to be a broken down vehicle. The driver of the vehicle, Geronimo Mendoza Ventura, a 39-year-old citizen of the Dominican Republic was evasive and nervous while the officers tried to provide him with assistance.

The officers grew suspicious of Mendonza-Ventura's demeanor and visually inspected the interior of the vehicle. They subsequently searched the vehicle and found approximately 197 brick-like packages of a powdery white substance that later tested positive for cocaine.

"This is a tremendous effort and shows the commitment of federal and local law enforcement agencies alike to fight crime," said Roberto G. Medina, special agent-in-charge of ICE in San Juan. "We're sending a clear message that we will continue to investigate and prosecute those involved in criminal activity in our jurisdiction."

Mendoza-Ventura is in PRPD custody pending the filing of formal charges. The ICE investigation into the case continues.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.